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Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council

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THE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
for the Year 1952





Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council

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*To the Chairman and Members of the*

BRADFORD AND MELKSHAM RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1952, based on Ministry of Health Circular 2/53.

The District has remained free from serious epidemics throughout the year and the customary standard of good health which this district enjoys has been maintained.

The rare occurrence of a case of diphtheria, which in these days of widespread protection is somewhat of a novelty, proved mild in nature and made an uneventful recovery.

The opening of the new Public Health Laboratory at Manor Hospital, Bath, has already proved a great acquisition and is within easy reach of all parts of the District.

Towards the end of the year, at the commencement of the influenza season, considerable work was undertaken, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Health, concerning the ascertainment and investigation of outbreaks of influenza. Arrangements were made with certain local practitioners, and with the Officers of the Ministry of National Insurance, to furnish reports concerning an impending epidemic. Collecting and sampling apparatus has been supplied by the Public Health Laboratory for the purpose of investigating the outbreaks. I am glad to report that considerable co-operation was forthcoming from the medical practitioners and others concerned.

I attended the Health Congress, held at Margate in the Spring of the year. Many excellent papers, discussions, and outings were enjoyed, and the learning of the latest developments and trends in the world of Health, together with the meeting of other colleagues, proved of great benefit and satisfaction.

Two additional tables, calculated to be of interest, have been included this year, one a table giving the age and sex incidence of cancer deaths, while the other concerns the age and sex incidence of deaths from heart and arterial disease.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Noble for his help and co-operation during the year, and Mrs. Hannaford and Mr. Mills for clerical assistance so ably and so willingly given.

Yours faithfully,

R. BRUCE KILLOH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY**

### **Medical Officer of Health :**

R. BRUCE KILLOH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
who is also Medical Officer of Health to Melksham  
Urban District.

### **Sanitary Inspector :**

W. A. NOBLE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

### **Offices :**

The office of the Medical Officer of Health is 1, King  
Street, Melksham. Tel. Melksham 2307.

The office of the Sanitary Inspector is in Abbey House,  
Bradford-on-Avon. Tel. Bradford-on-Avon 2174.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District (Acres)	...	...	...	26,881
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	13
Estimated Population (including Service Personnel)	...			14,200
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	2,826
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£64,753
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	...	£258

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

The following statistics have been compiled from information received from the Registrar General :—

### Births

#### Live Births

Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	85	77	162
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	4	4
Total number of live births				85	81	166

Birth Rate for the District (i.e., per 1,000 population)	11·70
Comparative figure for England & Wales	15·3

#### Still Births

Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	2	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total number of still births				2	2	4

Still Birth Rate for the District	0·28
Comparative figure for England & Wales	0·35



## Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Number of Deaths in the Area ...	56	59	115
Local Death Rate (i.e., per 1,000 population)		...	7.95
Comparative figure for England & Wales ...		...	11.3

## Infant Mortality

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	1	1	2
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...	1	1	2

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	1	1	2
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...	1	1	2

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births ... ..	...	...	12.05
Comparative figure for England & Wales ...		...	27.6

## Causes of Deaths

The causes of death, classified according to the Registrar General's system, are given in the following table:—

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ...	1	—	1
(other) ...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic disease ...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm (stomach) ...	2	1	3
(lung bronchus) ...	2	1	3
(breast) ...	—	1	1
(uterus) ...	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	9	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	—	1
Diabetes ...	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	4	17	21
Coronary disease, Angina ...	8	3	11
Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—	—
Other heart disease ...	21	10	31
Other circulatory disease ...	1	2	3
Influenza ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	1	2
Bronchitis ...	1	1	2
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	3	10	13
Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	—
All other accidents ...	2	—	2
Suicide ...	1	1	2
Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b> ...	<b>56</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>115</b>

These tables have been prepared from data obtained from local sources :—

**Age and Sex Incidence of Deaths from Heart and Arterial Disease**

Under 30		Under 40		Under 50		Under 60		Under 70		Under 80	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—	—	1	—	—	—	2	4	4	2	8	7

**Age and Sex Incidence of Deaths from Cancer**

Location of Cancer	Under 30		Under 40		Under 50		Under 60		Under 70		Under 80	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cancer of Bowel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cancer of Lung	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cancer of Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Alimentary (other than above)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Genital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reproductive	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1

## **OUTLINE OF THE HEALTH SERVICES OPERATING IN THE AREA**

### **Laboratory Facilities**

The Public Health Laboratory, Manor Hospital, Bath, undertakes all necessary bacteriological and pathological examinations in the District.

This laboratory with its skilled staff provides a most valuable service with regard to the examination of drinking water, food and milk samples, throat swabs, etc., and their willing co-operation and expert advice is greatly appreciated.

### **Hospital Facilities**

The South-Western Regional Hospital Board is responsible for hospital facilities in this district.

The two hospitals in the area are a general hospital in Melksham, and a hospital for the chronic sick at Semington. Other general hospitals are situated in Devizes and Trowbridge, with larger ones in Bath and Bristol.

The nearest hospital for the treatment of common infectious disease is the Isolation Hospital at Trowbridge, while cases of Poliomyelitis are generally treated in Bath Isolation Hospital. The nearest Smallpox Hospital is at Bristol.

### **County Health Facilities**

The following health services operating in the district are provided by the County Health Committee :—

- Care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.
- Domiciliary Midwifery.
- Health Visiting.
- Home Nursing.
- Arrangements for vaccination and immunization.
- Ambulances and ambulance cars.
- Domestic Helps.
- Arrangements under Part III of the National Health Service Act for the prevention of illness ; care and after-care ; and health education.
- Mental Health Service.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

Disease	1951	1952
Scarlet Fever ... ..	22	12
Whooping Cough ... ..	42	32
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	1	1
Non-paralytic	4	—
Measles ... ..	211	9
Diphtheria ... ..	—	1
Pneumonia ... ..	6	8
Dysentery ... ..	8	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	2
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	1

### NUMBER OF CASES AND ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL

Disease	Number of Cases	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ... ..	9	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	32	—
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	1	1
Non-paralytic	—	—
Measles ... ..	9	2
Diphtheria ... ..	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	8	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	2	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1

The distribution of cases according to age and sex are shown in the following tables.

#### ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles		Diphtheria	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2 years	1	—	5	4	—	—	—	2	—	—
3-4 years	—	1	2	6	—	—	1	2	—	—
5-9 years	2	2	4	7	—	—	—	2	—	—
10-14 years	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 years	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Not Known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	3	14	18	—	1	2	7	1	—

Age Groups	Pneumonia		Dysentery		Erysipelas		Meningo-coccal Infection	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 years	8	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
45-64 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not Known	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTAL	8	—	—	—	—	2	1	—

# DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

Parishes	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis		Measles	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Meningo- coccal Infection
			Paralytic	Non- Paralytic						
Atworth	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Broughton Gifford	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hilperton	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Holt	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Limpley Stoke	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melksham Without	10	9	—	—	1	8	—	1	—	1
Monkton Farleigh	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Semington	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wraxall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Staverton	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Westwood	—	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Wingfield	—	9	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Winsley	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	32	1	—	9	8	—	2	1	1



## Poliomyelitis

Only one case of poliomyelitis was notified in the District during the year. The affected person was a young pregnant woman, affected with the paralytic form of the disease who was subsequently delivered of a normal child.

It will be recalled that two cases of poliomyelitis, two confirmed and one suspected, occurred in other separate apartments within the same dwelling during the summer of the previous year. A thorough investigation failed to provide any explanation of this coincidence.

## Tuberculosis

NEW CASES				
Year				No. of cases
1951	...	...	...	10
1952	...	...	...	9

Distribution of new cases according to age, sex, and localisation of disease, is as follows :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths	
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 Year	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 Years	—	—	—	2	—	—
6-15 "	—	1	1	—	1	—
16-25 "	1	—	—	—	—	—
26-35 "	1	1	—	—	1	—
36-45 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
46-55 "	1	—	—	—	—	—
56-65 "	—	1	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	1	2	2	—

From the above table it will be seen that 6 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1952. Two deaths from tuberculosis were recorded.



## Housing of Tuberculosis Patients

During the year, cases were referred by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing. These cases are classified as follows :—

*Certificate No. 1.* Sputum-positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

*Certificate No. 2.* Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patient's health.

*Certificate No. 3.* Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

The following is a summary of the cases dealt with during the year :—

Type of Case	No. of cases referred	No. of cases re-housed
Certificate No. 1	—	—
Certificate No. 2	2	—
Certificate No. 3	—	—

Both the above applications were subsequently withdrawn by the applicants.

## Mass Radiography

No visits by the Mass Radiography Unit were undertaken during the year, a comprehensive survey at the New Mendip Engineering Company Ltd. having been undertaken towards the end of the previous year.

Further visits to the District in the following year were, however, promised.

## Diphtheria Immunization

Diphtheria immunization is carried out systematically throughout the district by General Practitioners and County Medical Officers, in homes and schools.

Diphtheria immunization was suspended for a time during the summer owing to the prevalence of Poliomyelitis in this and neighbouring districts.

## Immunization Statistics, 1952

Number of primary immunizations completed during 1952 :—

Up to 4 years of age	...	...	...	95
From 5-14 years of age	...	...	...	17

Number of reinforcing injections administered ... 189

Total immunized child population at 31st December, 1952 :—

Up to 4 years of age	...	...	...	430
From 5-14 years of age	...	...	...	1373
			TOTAL	1803

## Vaccination

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1952 :—

Age Group	Number Vaccinated	Number Re-vaccinated
Under 1 year	22	—
1-4 years	7	2
5-14 years	3	5
Over 15 years	12	24
TOTAL	44	31

Vaccination is performed under the National Health Service by General Practitioners. Emergency clinics can be operated in the event of an outbreak of smallpox in County Health Clinics at Salisbury and Swindon. Vaccination propaganda is undertaken by the County Health Authority.

It would appear that too few babies are being vaccinated at the present time, and in sharp contrast to diphtheria immunization, which is relatively popular, vaccination in infancy is in my experience inclined to be viewed with relative indifference at the present time. Everything possible, therefore, requires to be done toward stimulating public opinion in favour of vaccination and impressing on them the constant danger of smallpox outbreaks in a poorly protected community.

## Food Poisoning

There were no outbreaks or confirmed cases of food poisoning in the district during 1952.

## National Assistance Act, 1948

### SECTION 47 : REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

During the year one case was kept under review, but I am happy to report that it was not found necessary to obtain compulsory removal of any persons against their will from their homes.

This step is one that should only be considered after all the assistance that can be given by Home Helps, District Nurses, National Assistance Officers and Welfare Officers, etc., has failed to provide the care and attention needed, and it is felt that there is need for more co-ordination of these services which are available to assist the aged and infirm.

# REPORT

## OF THE

### SANITARY INSPECTOR

---

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to present my fifth Annual Report to this Council.

My gratitude is due to the Chairman and Members of the Council and Committees for ready guidance on matters of policy and to Dr. Killoh for his co-operation, and the presentation of this joint report.

To Miss M. S. Wells I am considerably indebted for her able clerical assistance. The Rodent Operator and the five members of the Refuse Collection and Disposal Staff have also worked admirably to maintain our public service.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. NOBLE,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

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#### STAFF

Clerk/Typist	MISS M. S. WELLS
Rodent Operator	MR. A. J. BODDY
Refuse Collection	MR. J. H. GOODENOUGH MR. R. HINTON MR. D. J. BURT (from 30th June, 1952)
Tip Operators	MR. T. COX MR. P. SAWYER

## MEAT AND FOODS

			Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Bakehouses	...	...	3	6	1	2
Slaughterhouses	...	...	3	32	—	—
Butchers' Shops	...	...	3	6	2	1
Catering Establishments	...	...	42	1	1	—
Food Shops	...	...	38	3	2	1
Licensed Premises	...	...	30	9	1	1
Licensed Slaughtermen	...	...	6	—	—	—

*Note*—It will be noticed throughout this report that on occasion, more notices are shown as "complied with" than "served." This is explained by work, requested in 1951, being completed in 1952.

During the year, 95 horses have been killed for human consumption. 2 sets of lungs and 11 livers were condemned as unfit for food. 1 hindquarter was condemned for "bruising."

It is of interest to say that no evidence of Tuberculosis was observed, and that the meat is remarkably free from disease.

On the 31st August, 1952, the Public Health (Meat) (Amendment) Regulations, 1952, came into operation and prior notice of the slaughter of horses was made a statutory obligation. This has made little difference in practice, as prior notice has always been given, and a 100% inspection maintained.

At various other premises, the following articles were condemned :—

Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	1 tin
Boneless Pork	...	...	...	...	71 tins

Wherever possible the condemned food is re-processed or used for animal foodstuffs.

## ICE CREAM

			Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Retailers	...	...	16	193	—	1
Manufacturers	...	...	—	—	—	—

The results of the year's sampling are set out in Appendix "A" of this report. Enquiries and check samples are made following a poor sample result. All the ice cream is manufactured outside this district.

The 1952 results show a most marked improvement over those of previous years, and the Council's policy of registering general stores for the sale of pre-packed ice cream only, appears to be fully justified.

There is a tendency for the small manufacturer of ice cream to go out of business, and for the manufacturing trade to be in the hands of large companies who can afford expensive machinery and premises, and frequently employ expert bacteriological staff. Whilst this tendency may not be entirely for the good in respect of matters which are not my concern, it does help to ensure a hygienic product, and must be welcomed from the public health viewpoint.

## MILK AND DAIRIES

### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Dairies ... ..	9	145	—	—
Distributors ... ..	12			
Producer/Retailers ... ..	35			

### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS

"Tuberculin Tested" Dealers' Licences	...	...	4
"Pasteurised" Dealers' Licences	...	...	4
Supplementary "Tuberculin Tested" Dealers' Licences	...	...	5
Supplementary "Pasteurised" Dealers' Licences	...	...	3

Appendix "B" of this report sets out the sample results of "designated" milk.

It will be seen that the results are not uniformly satisfactory. Investigations are made when samples fail in the statutory tests, and it is pleasing to observe that we have never had three consecutive samples fail.

Whilst continued vigilance will be maintained for this designated milk, the hope may be expressed that either an appropriate test be made applicable to undesignated milk, or this district be made a "specified area" so that only designated milk may be sold.

During the year, 14 samples have been taken for biological examination, and in each case the report was "Tubercle Bacillus not present—Negative to Brucella Abortus." The dangers from the biological angle as opposed to hygienic quality, are not always fully realised, and I wish it were possible for a tighter sampling routine to be carried out, but lack of staff renders this impossible.



## WATER

Number of Public Water Supplies in the District	...	13
Number of Bacteriological Samples obtained during 1952		88
Number of Samples taken for chemical analysis during 1952	... ..	—

Appendix "C" of this report sets out the sample results for the year.

Two unsatisfactory supplies have been discontinued, and the Council's Surveyor has various schemes on paper, which will result in considerable unification and improvement. Unfortunately the Ministry's policy of restriction in capital expenditure is likely to lead to serious delay.

I am not in a position to give, with any degree of accuracy, the number of houses and the population in each Parish supplied from public water mains direct to houses, or by means of stand-pipes. None of the water supplies appears to be liable to plumbosolvent action.

A typical report of a satisfactory bacteriological examination is given below :—

### SALISBURY AREA PATHOLOGICAL SERVICE

Pathological Department,  
Salisbury General Infirmary,  
Salisbury.

### REPORT ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

1. Bacteriological Count. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours :—NIL, per 1 m.l. of water.
2. B. Coli Counts at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours.

Quantity of water tested	Acid and Gas from lactose	
	at 37°C.	at 44°C.
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—

As a result of calculation made from above :—

- (1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C. ... .. NIL,
- (2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C. ... .. NIL,

## OPINION

Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

Date : 5/4/52.

## FACTORIES

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Factories with power ...	29	34	7	4
Factories without power ...	2	6	1	1
Outworkers ...	106	53	—	—

The requirements of the Factories Act, 1937, appear to be complied with but it is not possible to make as many inspections as are really necessary. Full details, as required by the Ministry, are contained in Appendix "D."

Following a detailed factory inspection and compliance with a request for minor alterations, a certificate of adequate means of escape in case of fire was issued in May, in accordance with Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

## SHOPS

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Shops ...	39	6	—	1

Once again, pressure of other work has rendered it impossible to make the required inspections to ensure compliance with the Shops Act, 1950.

## PETROLEUM

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Licensed Premises ...	40	17	—	1

Various Licence Holders have installed new pumps, and endeavours are made to ensure that there is compliance with the Model Conditions in respect of electrical equipment associated with petrol service pumps.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Site Licences ...	12	105	—	5
Individual Licences ...	—			
Licences Refused ...	—			



In 1951, the Council posted notices of the Wiltshire County Council's byelaws as to the control of caravan dwellers on Norrington and Broughton Commons, Broughton Gifford. The gypsy nuisance has practically disappeared, but it is worth remembering that this nuisance is mainly a police matter rather than one of public health.

In May, 1952, a site licence for six caravans was issued with conditions as to the distance between caravans, main water stand-pipes, sanitary conveniences, a drainage system, dustbins and fire-fighting appliances. The site was quickly filled, and we continue to get applications for isolated caravans. The Council consider these applications on planning and health grounds, with the realisation of the housing shortage.

### **RODENT CONTROL**

Number of visits made by Rodent Operator	...	...	982
Estimated number of rats destroyed	...	...	3,547
Estimated number of mice destroyed	...	...	18

The Rodent Operator now spends two weeks out of four on rodent control for this Council, and steady progress is being made. Ready co-operation with the Pests Officers of the Agricultural Executive Committee is appreciated, and leads to a smooth public service.

It is gratifying to mention that there were no developments following our intensive work in one Parish after a case of Weil's disease (rat jaundice) in a farm worker during 1951.

All three sewerage systems have been test-baited. Further baits and poison were necessary in one branch sewer, but otherwise there was no evidence of rats.

Details, in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, are given in Appendix "E."

### **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

This service, with a mainly weekly collection, has been maintained throughout the year with remarkably few complaints. Credit is due to the driver and loaders for this satisfactory record.

One man left our service, but as the Council agreed to offer housing accommodation when advertising the vacancy, a suitable applicant was appointed without the difficulties experienced in the past.

Increases in wages, in the cost of fuel, tyres and the adoption of a paper salvage bonus scheme in July, 1951, render it necessary for a strict check to be kept on the cost of this service. For these reasons, I have commenced a Costing System (a modified form of that suggested by the Ministry of Health) whereby the detailed figures are available, can be readily checked, and future trends observed. The figures are contained in Appendix "F" of this report, and they do compare favourably with those of other districts which I have available.

During the years 1951 and 1952, 135 new dwellings have been erected and occupied in the district. We have already amended our collection routine to meet this new demand upon the service, but the time is approaching when the question of an additional vehicle and gang of men will have to be considered. This district contains many narrow lanes and the Dennis 7 cubic yard vehicle was chosen in view of its good manoeuvrability. I think it is unlikely that our difficulties could be overcome by the use of a larger type of vehicle.

In September, a mechanic from Messrs. Dennis Bros., visited this district and gave our lorry an overhaul, including decarbonising, at the cost of £35.

### SALVAGE

During the year, the following items of salvage have been sold :—

			Weight	Approx. Value
Waste Paper	...	...	40 tons 6 cwts. 3 qrs.	£356 2 8
Rags	...	...	9 cwts. 1 qr.	£7 13 6
Scrap Metal	...	...	3 tons 13 cwts. 0 qr.	£14 12 0
TOTAL ...				<hr/> £378 8 2 <hr/>

These figures reflect the large decrease in the price obtained for salvaged waste paper. During the year this price has dropped from £16 per ton to £4 : 10 : 0 per ton. It has been necessary to reduce the men's salvage bonus by 50%. The Council have taken the long-term view that as a nation we cannot afford to destroy this raw material. By maintaining the householders habit of putting salvage for collection, we hope to reap the benefit of an improved price at a later date.

## CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This service, which was brought into operation in 1948, has been utilised to clear 234 cesspools and septic tanks during 1952. The contractors, employed by the Council, visit the district every three months and carry out work notified to my office following newspaper advertisements.

To save correspondence, a standing order scheme has been established, and instructions have been received for 234 clearances every year, quite apart from any enquiries made following our quarterly advertisement.

The growth of the service can be judged by the clearance figures given below :—

1948	...	...	75 clearances
1949	...	...	98 clearances
1950	...	...	120 clearances
1951	...	...	175 clearances
1952	...	...	234 clearances

## HOUSING

Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	6
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	3
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	3
Number of Demolition Orders issued	...	...	—
Number of undertakings accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	—
Number of notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	—

No progress has been made under the Rural Housing Survey and old property continues to deteriorate. We shall be faced with a large and difficult problem in this respect. The Minister of Housing and Local Government has given some public expression to the urgency of slum clearance work, and it is to be emphasized that slums are by no means confined to urban areas, and we shall have tremendous problems in this respect. It will, I think, be this Council's policy to obtain reconditioning of property rather than demolition, in an endeavour to preserve the individuality of rural property. With this in mind it is pleasing to note that the Housing Act, 1952, has extended Improvement Grants to apply to "tied cottages," but the standard of reconditioning is so high that the majority of properties cannot qualify.

No Improvement Grants have been made, but five applications are pending. No proceedings have been taken under Sections 12, 25, 26 or the Overcrowding Sections of the 1936 Act.

It appears, from the Royal Address, that the vexed question of rent restriction is to be shelved once again, and this will inevitably lead to an absence of improvement, or indeed adequate maintenance, of cottage property.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936**

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	77
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	26
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	—
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	40
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	1

Once again, a variety of complaints have been received and investigated. It is only if friendly informal action is unsuccessful that the cases are reported to the Public Health Committee for consideration of statutory action.

As an instance of the variety of the work under this heading, I would mention that compliance was obtained at a residential hotel with a notice under Section 60 of the Public Health Act regarding means of escape from fire.

A summary of work carried out by informal action is given in Appendix "G" of this report.

### **RIVERS, STREAMS AND SEWERAGE**

Informal action has been taken in various parts of the district to prevent pollution of streams and water courses. Sewer ditches continue to be a problem. Only three of the 13 Parishes (Winsley, Hilperton and Holt) have sewerage systems, but additional schemes are envisaged by the Surveyor to the Council.

The Council have agreed in principle, although each case is to be considered on its merits, to insist upon downward filtration for new sewage disposal plants with effluents to ditches or village drains. This will obviously entail additional expense to property owners in cases where there is insufficient natural fall and pumping is required. With other considerations, the probable delay in providing sewerage systems has rendered this policy necessary.

### **SWIMMING BATHS**

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in this area. Various samples and some advisory work was undertaken for a private pool at a school.



## SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was found to be necessary during the year with regard to smoke abatement.

### RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Number of Premies Registered	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	6
Number of Samples obtained	...	...	...	5

Samples of rag flock, feathers, hair, woollen mixture felt, and unused cotton felt were obtained in accordance with the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1951, and in each case the Prescribed Analyst gave a satisfactory report.

A typical certificate is given below :—

#### RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

##### *Analyst's Certificate*

I CERTIFY that I have subjected the sample of Rag Flock received by me from Mr. W. A. Noble, authorised officer for the Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council, Abbey House, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, on the 7th February, 1952, and marked Sample No. 2, to the under-mentioned tests in accordance with the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1951, and that the results of these tests were as shown hereunder :—

Tests	Requirements of 1951 Regulations	Results
Chlorine Content	Not to contain more than 30 parts per 100,000 of chlorine in the form of soluble chlorides	8.0 parts per 100,000
Oil Content	Not to contain more than 5% of oil and soap	1.77%
Soap Content	Not to contain more than 5% of oil and soap	0.66%
Soluble Impurities	Not to contain more than 1.8% of soluble impurities	(i) 1.03% (ii) 0.94% (iii) 1.01%
		Average 0.99%

Remarks : Sample satisfactory.

(Signed) John Hudson,

Prescribed Analyst.

Date : 9/2/52.

In January, 1952, Mr. John Hudson, Prescribed Analyst, gave a talk at Swindon to a Centre Meeting of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association. Valuable advice on the technicalities of sampling and specimens of the filling materials was given.

The Council sent me as a delegate, and it cannot be emphasized too strongly that such guidance on new legislation is very welcome and to be encouraged in other spheres.

### **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951**

Number of Premises Licensed	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	6

With the expert advice of the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector, two premises were licensed during the year. In one case some new isolation accommodation was required for some kennels, and this work was satisfactorily completed.

Mention should be made of the very ready and helpful co-operation of the R.S.P.C.A.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE**

Towards the latter part of the year, a new laboratory was opened at the Manor Hospital, Bath. We have experienced some difficulty in getting samples transported to Salisbury, and this new laboratory will be very welcome both for routine samples and for the readily available advice from the Bacteriologist in emergencies such as food poisoning or doubtful food stuffs.

### **GENERAL**

The following visits have been made in connection with miscellaneous items requiring attention :—

Drainage	...	...	...	...	530
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	241
Salvage	...	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous Housing visits, including visits to Council House applicants (for allocation of insanitary and overcrowding points) and Small Dwellings Acquisition Act enquiries	...	...	...	...	82
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	9
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	132
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	27

# APPENDIX "A" ICE CREAM RETAILERS — SAMPLE RESULTS, 1952

Retailer	Provisional Grading of Samples as laid down by Public Health Laboratory Service and Ministry of Health.	Percentage of Samples.			
		Grade I	Grade I or II	Grade III	Grade IV
A	I, I, I, I, I, I, II	89	100	—	—
B	I, I, II, I, I	83	100	—	—
C	II, I, I, I, I, I, I	90	100	—	—
D	II, I, I, I, I, I, I	91	100	—	—
E	II, I, I, II, I, I, I, II	73	100	—	—
F	I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, II	92	100	—	—
G	I, I, I, I, I, I, I	100	100	—	—
H	I, I, I, II	75	100	—	—
I	I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I	100	100	—	—
J	I, I, I, I, I	100	100	—	—
K	I, I, I, I, I, I, I	100	100	—	—
L	I, I, I, I, I, II, I, I	88	100	—	—
M	I, I, I, I, I, I	100	100	—	—
N	I, I, I, I, III, I, I	86	86	14	—
O	I, I, I, I, I, I, II, I, II	80	100	—	—
Average		90 per cent.	99 per cent.	1 per cent.	0 per cent.

*Note*—The Public Health Laboratory Service suggests that 50 per cent. of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I, 80 per cent. into Grade I or II, no more than 20 per cent. into Grade III, and none into Grade IV.

## APPENDIX "A" (continued)

## ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS — SAMPLE RESULTS, 1952

Manufacturer	Provisional Grading of Samples as laid down by Public Health Laboratory Service and Ministry of Health.	Percentage of Samples.			
		Grade I	Grade I or II	Grade III	Grade IV
U	I	100	100	—	—
V	I, II	97	100	—	—
W	I, II, II, I, III, I, I, I, I, I, I, II	88	97	3	—
X	II, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, II, I, I, I, I, I, I	92	100	—	—
Y	II, I, I, I, II, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, II, II	73	100	—	—
Z	I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, II, II, I, I, I	87	100	—	—
Average	...	90 per cent.	99·5 per cent.	0·5 per cent.	0 per cent.

*Note*—The Public Health Laboratory Service suggests that 50 per cent. of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I, 80 per cent. into Grade I or II, no more than 20 per cent. into Grade III, and none into Grade IV.



# APPENDIX "B"

## BACTERIOLOGICAL MILK SAMPLE RESULTS, 1952 Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

### TUBERCULIN TESTED

Retailer	Type of Licence	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Percentage of Satisfactory Samples during 1952
A	Supplementary	S(1)	S(1)	U(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	86%
B	Dealers	U(1)	—	S(1)	S(1)	U(2)	S(2)	—	—	S(1)	S(1)	S(1)	S(1)	75%
		S(1)												
C	Dealers	S(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	U(2)	S(2)	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	S(1)	—	80%
D	Supplementary	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	S(1)	—	—	100%
E	Dealers	S(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	S(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	100%
F	Supplementary	U(1)	—	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	75%
		S(1)												
G	Supplementary	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	S(1)	U(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	S(1)	88%
H	Supplementary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S(1)	100%

## Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

### PASTEURISED

Retailer	Type of Licence	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Percentage
I	Supplementary	S(1)	S(1)	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	100%
J	Dealers	S(2)	—	S(1)	—	U(1)	S(2)	—	—	S(1)	S(1)	S(1)	S(1)	90%
K	Supplementary	S(2)	—	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	100%
L	Dealers	—	—	S(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	100%
M	Dealers	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	S(1)	S(1)	S(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	100%
N	Dealers	S(1)	S(1)	S(1)	S(1)	S(2)	—	S(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	S(1)	—	100%
O	Dealers	S(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	U(1)	—	S(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	S(1)	—	89%
						S(1)								

*Note*—S denotes satisfactory result. U denotes failure in methylene blue or phosphatase test. (Number) denotes number of samples obtained during the month.

*Remarks* (applicable to all above Retailers with the exception of 'H')—

One satisfactory Biological test for Tubercle Bacillus and Brucella Abortus.

# **APPENDIX "C"                      BACTERIOLOGICAL      WATER      SAMPLE      RESULTS, 1952**

Name of Supply.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks.
Avoncliff Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Chalfield Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	U(1) S(2)	—	—	Chlorinator installed in February, 1949.
Conkwell Supply	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	—	U(1)	—	—	Warning notice fixed in January, 1949.
Combe Down Water Company	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Holt Water Company	S(1)	—	—	S(3)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	Chlorinator installed in April, 1949.
Limpley Stoke Middle Village Spring Supply	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	—	U(1)	—	—	Warning notice fixed in March, 1949.
Limpley Stoke Lower Village Spring Supply	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	—	U(1)	—	—	Warning notice fixed in January, 1949.

*Note*—S denotes satisfactory result. U denotes unsatisfactory result due to presence of faecal coli. (Number) denotes number of samples obtained during the month.

# **APPENDIX "C" (continued) BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLE RESULTS, 1952**

Name of Supply.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks.
Monkton Farleigh Ministry of Works Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Chippenham Water Scheme	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
New Mendip Supply (Atworth)	U(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	Supply discontinued.
New Mendip Eng- ineering Company's Borehole Supply	S(2)	S(2)	—	S(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	—	U(1)	—	—	Supply discontinued.
Norrington Common Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—
Staples Hill Dip Hole Supply	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	U(1)	—	—	Warning notice fixed in August, 1949.
Turleigh Troughs Supply	S(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	—	U(1)	—	—	Warning notice fixed in August, 1949
Trowbridge Water Board	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	Chlorinated supply.

*Note*—S denotes satisfactory result. U denotes unsatisfactory result due to presence of faecal coli.  
(Number) denotes number of samples obtained during the month.

## APPENDIX "D"

### FACTORIES

	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
<b>Inspections</b>				
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority (non-power) ...	2	6	1	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (power) ...	29	34	3	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector
<b>Defects</b>				
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—
Drainage of Floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient ...	2	2	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	2	2	—	—

# APPENDIX "E"

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

### PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE

Type of Property	Number of properties in Local Authority's Area				Analysis		
	Total	in which infestation was		Recorded Total	Number infested by		
		Notified by Occupier	Otherwise discovered		Major	Rats Minor	Mice only
Local Authority's Property ...	5	5	12	17	14	3	—
Dwelling Houses ...	2950	34	49	83	33	50	—
Business Premises ...	150	5	4	9	7	2	—
Agricultural Property ...	220	1	—	1	—	1	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>3325</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>—</b>

# APPENDIX "E" (continued)

## MEASURE OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

Type of Property	No. of properties inspected	No. of inspections made	Number of notices served under Section 4		Number of treatments carried out			Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sect. 6(1) or by informal arrangement		
			Treatments	Works	By arrangement with Occupier		Under Section 5(1)	Number of Blocks	No. of separate occupancies	No. of Surface Associated Sewers
					Rats	Mice only				
Local Authority's Property ...	34	92	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—
Dwelling Houses ...	488	830	—	—	83	—	—	7	17	—
Business Premises ...	18	43	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
Agricultural Property ...	17	18	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	557	983	—	—	110	—	—	7	17	—

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL — Cost Statement for the Period from the 1st April, 1951, to the 31st March, 1952

	1950—1951		1951—1952	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<b>WORKMEN</b>				
Wages: 1 driver, 2 loaders, 2 tip operators	...	...	1,432	2 10
Third Party Insurance	...	...	2 18	2
Clothing and Boots	...	...	31 11	0
Tools and Implements	...	...	3 16	11
Advertising and Legal Charges	...	...	9 15	0
Bonus on Salvage	...	...	—	—
Baling Wages for Salvage Worker	...	...	48 16	10
<b>VEHICLE</b>				
R.F. Licence and Insurance	...	...	41 2	5
Petrol	...	...	249 11	9
Oil	...	...	3 5	10
Service Charge	...	...	25 0	0
Repairs	...	...	15 11	5
Tyres	...	...	47 19	8
Garage	...	...	26 5	7
Hire of Vehicle	...	...	4 5	0
<b>TIPS</b>				
Rent	...	...	1 0	0
Tip Dressings, Insecticides, etc.	...	...	3 9	0
Roadways, Sleepers, Gravel, etc.	...	...	21 13	7
<b>SALVAGE</b>				
Wire (Baling Rope)	...	...	24 0	0
Bags	...	...	8 15	0
Salvage Slips	...	...	—	—
			£2,001	0 0
<b>INCOME</b>				
Salvage Sold	...	...	562 19	3
Tip Rents, etc.	...	...	35 0	0
			£597 19	3
			£1,637 19	3

Total

## UNITS OF COST

Estimated Total Refuse Collected	1,352 tons	Cost per 1,000 population	...	£124 7 2 per annum
Population	...	Cost per Head of population	...	2/5·8d. per annum
Acreage	...	Cost per ton of Refuse	...	£1 4 3 per annum



## APPENDIX "G"

### SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS AND WORK OBTAINED BY INFORMAL ACTION

Food Shops—cleaned and tidied	...	1	Petroleum Premises—fire extinguisher provided	...	1
Food Shops—shop rebuilt, water heater and sink provided	...	1	Drainage—improvements and new systems	...	10
Restaurant Kitchen—sleeping quarters for staff cleaned and improved	...	1	Private Houses—repairs to house	...	2
Licensed Premises—sink and water heater installed in bar, and sanitary accommodation improved	...	1	Ditches—cleansed	...	12
Ice Cream Premises—sink, water heater and drainage installed	...	1	Private Houses—main water connections	...	10
Factories—new or improved sanitary accommodation provided	...	1	Means of Escape in case of Fire installed	...	3
Factory—wholesome water supply provided for drinking purposes	...	1	Pigs—removed from sheds	...	1
			Moveable Dwellings—drainage, water and sanitary accommodation provided	...	4
			Moveable Dwellings—bus body removed from site	...	1
			Various Premises connected to public sewer	...	21





